

THE CHRONOLOGICAL



DUKE ELLINGTON
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
1939 - 1940

WITH BEN WEBSTER, JIMMY BLANTON, IVIE ANDERSON,
REX STEWART, JOHNNY HODGES, BARNEY BIGARD,
COOTIE WILLIAMS, TRICKY SAM...

CLASSICS

7 9 0

DUKE ELLINGTON

AND HIS ORCHESTRA

1939 - 1940

7 9 0

DK 003

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
A.A.D.



- | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|------|
| 1 Blues | (WM-1100-A) | 10-14-39 | 2:43 | 12 Stormy Weather | (WM-1136-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:30 |
| 2 Early Mornin' | (WM-1105-A) | 10-16-39 | 2:28 | 13 Mood Indigo | (WM-1137-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:39 |
| 3 Killin' Myself | (WM-1106-A) | 10-16-39 | 2:23 | 14 Sophisticated Lady | (WM-1138-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:47 |
| 4 Your Love Has Faded | (WM-1107-A) | 10-16-39 | 2:50 | 15 Pelican Drag | (WM-1139-1) | 02-14-40 | 2:57 |
| 5 Country Gal | (WM-1108-A) | 10-16-39 | 2:54 | 16 Tapioca | (WM-1140-1) | 02-14-40 | 2:28 |
| 6 Minuet In Blues | (WM-1117-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:47 | 17 Mardi Gras Madness | (WM-1141-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:30 |
| 7 Lost In Two Flats | (WM-1118-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:29 | 18 Watch The Birdie | (WM-1142-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:39 |
| 8 Honey Hush | (WM-1119-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:48 | 19 Black Butterfly | (WM-1143-A) | 02-15-40 | 2:41 |
| 9 Blues | (WM-1120-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:51 | 20 Dry Long So | (WM-1144-A) | 02-15-40 | 2:48 |
| 10 Plucked Again | (WM-1121-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:58 | 21 Toasted Pickle | (WM-1145-A) | 02-15-40 | 2:37 |
| 11 Solitude | (WM-1135-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:55 | 22 Give It Up | (WM-1146-A) | 02-15-40 | 2:55 |

1 DUKE ELLINGTON. 2, 6, 7, 8, 15 TO 18 BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA. 3, 4, 5, 11 TO 14
DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA. 9, 10 DUKE ELLINGTON - JIMMY BLANTON.
19 TO 22 COOTIE WILLIAMS AND HIS RUG CUTTERS. 3 IVIE ANDERSON - BILLY STRAYHORN VOCAL.
4, 11, 12, 13 IVIE ANDERSON VOCAL. 20 COOTIE WILLIAMS VOCAL.

ALSO AVAILABLE BY DUKE ELLINGTON : CLASSICS 539, 542, 550, 559, 569, 577, 586, 596,
605, 616, 626, 637, 646, 659, 666, 675, 687, 700, 717, 726, 747, 765 & 780.

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7 9 0

CLASSICS

CLASSICS 790

CLASSICS 790

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

1939 - 1940

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|----------|------|
| 1 | BLUES (Ellington)
(WM-1100-A) | 10-14-39 | 2:43 |
| 2 | EARLY MORNIN' (Bigard)
(WM-1105-A) | 10-16-39 | 2:28 |
| 3 | KILLIN' MYSELF (Ellington)
(WM-1106-A) | 10-16-39 | 2:23 |
| 4 | YOUR LOVE HAS FADED (Ellington)
(WM-1107-A) | 10-16-39 | 2:50 |
| 5 | COUNTRY GAL (Ellington)
(WM-1108-A) | 10-16-39 | 2:54 |
| 6 | MINUET IN BLUES (Strayhorn-Bigard)
(WM-1117-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:47 |
| 7 | LOST IN TWO FLATS (Strayhorn)
(WM-1118-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:29 |
| 8 | HONEY HUSH (Stewart-Bigard-Taylor)
(WM-1119-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:48 |
| 9 | BLUES (Ellington)
(WM-1120-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:51 |
| 10 | PLUCKED AGAIN (Ellington)
(WM-1121-A) | 11-22-39 | 2:58 |
| 11 | SOLITUDE (Ellington-De Lange-Mills)
(WM-1135-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:55 |
| 12 | STORMY WEATHER (Arlen-Koehler)
(WM-1136-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:30 |
| 13 | MOOD INDIGO (Ellington-Mills-Bigard)
(WM-1137-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:39 |

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|-----------|--|----------|------|
| 14 | SOPHISTICATED LADY (Ellington-Mills-Parish)
(WM-1138-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:47 |
| 15 | PELICAN DRAG (Carney)
(WM-1139-1) | 02-14-40 | 2:57 |
| 16 | TAPIOCA (Strayhorn)
(WM-1140-1) | 02-14-40 | 2:28 |
| 17 | MARDI GRAS MADNESS (Bigard-Ellington)
(WM-1141-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:30 |
| 18 | WATCH THE BIRDIE (Raye-De Paul)
(WM-1142-A) | 02-14-40 | 2:39 |
| 19 | BLACK BUTTERFLY (Mills-Ellington-Carruthers)
(WM-1143-A) | 02-15-40 | 2:41 |
| 20 | DRY LONG SO (Mills-Trent-Ellington)
(WM-1144-A) | 02-15-40 | 2:48 |
| 21 | TOASTED PICKLE (Williams)
(WM-1145-A) | 02-15-40 | 2:37 |
| 22 | GIVE IT UP (Williams)
(WM-1146-A) | 02-15-40 | 2:55 |

THE CLASSICS CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES

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| 698 : JACK TEAGARDEN 1930-34 | 732 : FATS WALLER 1934-35 | 766 : BUNNY BERIGAN 1937 |
| 699 : CLAUDE HOPKINS 1932-34 | 733 : CLAUDE HOPKINS 1937-40 | 767 : GENE KRUPA 1938 |
| 700 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1938 | 734 : BUNNY BERIGAN 1935-36 | 768 : WILLIE BRYANT 1935-36 |
| 701 : ERSKINE HAWKINS 1940-41 | 735 : ETHEL WATERS 1931-34 | 769 : BENNY GOODMAN 1935 |
| 702 : FATS WALLER 1929 | 736 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1927 | 770 : JOHN KIRBY 1939-41 |
| 703 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1934-35 | 737 : EDDIE SOUTH 1937-41 | 771 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1928-29 |
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| 707 : EDDIE SOUTH 1923-37 | 741 : LOUIS JORDAN 1941-43 | 775 : ETHEL WATERS 1923-25 |
| 708 : STEPHANE GRAPPELLE 1935-40 | 742 : EDDIE CONDON 1927-38 | 776 : FATS WALLER 1935-36 |
| 709 : MUGGSY SPANIER 1939-42 | 743 : MEADE LUX LEWIS 1939-41 | 777 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1937-38 |
| 710 : MILLS BLUE RHYTHM BAND 1934-36 | 744 : BENNY GOODMAN 1934-35 | 778 : BIX BEIDERBECKE 1924-27 |
| 711 : JAMES P. JOHNSON 1938-42 | 745 : MIDGE WILLIAMS 1937-38 | 779 : STEPHANE GRAPPELLE 1941-43 |
| 712 : LUCKY MILLINDER 1941-42 | 746 : FATS WALLER 1935 | 780 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1939 (VOLUME II) |
| 713 : MEZZ MEZZROW 1928-36 | 747 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1938-39 | 781 : BUD FREEMAN 1928-38 |
| 714 : ALIX COMBELLE 1935-40 | 748 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1937 | 782 : ALIX COMBELLE 1942-43 |
| 715 : ALBERT AMMONS 1936-39 | 749 : BUNNY BERIGAN 1936-37 | 783 : BLANCHE CALLOWAY 1925-35 |
| 716 : CLAUDE HOPKINS 1934-35 | 750 : JOHN KIRBY 1938-39 | 784 : CHU BERRY 1937-41 |
| 717 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1938 (VOLUME II) | 751 : ALIX COMBELLE 1940-41 | 785 : BUNNY BERIGAN 1937-38 |
| 718 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1926-27 | 752 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1927-28 | 786 : NAT "KING" COLE 1941-43 |
| 719 : BENNY GOODMAN 1931-33 | 753 : SLIM GAILLARD/R.R. BOYS 1939-42 | 787 : BESSIE SMITH 1923-24 |
| 720 : FATS WALLER 1929-34 | 754 : GENE KRUPA 1935-38 | 788 : BIX BEIDERBECKE 1927-30 |
| 721 : ETHEL WATERS 1929-31 | 755 : ETHEL WATERS 1935-40 | 789 : BENNY GOODMAN 1935-36 |
| 722 : MEADE LUX LEWIS 1927-39 | 756 : LOVIE AUSTIN 1924-26 | 790 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1939-40 |
| 723 : BOOTS AND HIS BUDDIES 1935-37 | 757 : NAT "KING" COLE 1936-40 | 791 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1929 |
| 724 : SLIM GAILLARD 1939-40 | 758 : JACK TEAGARDEN 1939-40 | 792 : JOHN KIRBY 1941-43 |
| 725 : ROY ELDRIDGE 1935-40 | 759 : EDDIE CONDON 1938-40 | 793 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1938-39 |
| 726 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1938 (VOLUME III) | 760 : FATS WALLER 1935 (VOLUME II) | 794 : FLETCHER HENDERSON 1921-23 |
| 727 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1935 | 761 : BESSIE SMITH 1923 | 795 : JESS STACY 1935-39 |
| 728 : AL COOPER 1938-41 | 762 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1937 (VOLUME II) | 796 : ETHEL WATERS 1921-23 |
| 729 : JACK TEAGARDEN 1934-39 | 763 : JOE MARSALA 1936-42 | 797 : FATS WALLER 1936 |
| 730 : EDGAR HAYES 1937-38 | 764 : BILL COLEMAN 1936-38 | 798 : WINGY MANONE 1934-35 |
| 731 : MILLS BLUE RHYTHM BAND 1936-37 | 765 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1939 | 799 : GENE KRUPA 1939... |

Classics 500 to 697 are available.

CLASSICS 790

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1939 - 1940

“T here is for most followers of the Ellington phenomenon a kind of magic moment by which the advent of the peak years of the Ellington band are reckoned: the almost simultaneous acquisition of Jimmy Blanton and Ben Webster.” (Gunther Schuller) A few weeks before, Billy Strayhorn the most important addition to the band, had also joined Ellington on a regular basis. Things were set for what many consider the most fascinating period in the Duke Ellington career. Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington was born in Washington, D.C., on April 29, 1899. While still at high school, he began playing in his native city. He soon organized his first little group, “The Duke’s Serenaders”, including Otto Hardwick and Arthur Whetsol, both of whom were to remain with him for many years. Duke Ellington first came to New-York in 1923 with “The Washingtonians”, then still led by Elmer Snowden. A year later, the highly ambitious Duke Ellington took over the group and worked with it successfully at the “Kentucky Club” until 1927. The developing band’s most successful engagement, at the “Cotton Club”, lasted until 1931, when the fledgling Cab Calloway Orchestra took over their spot. Duke Ellington’s first tour to England, Scotland and France in 1933 proved an immense personal and musical triumph. During the thirties, the Duke and his Orchestra travelled extensively in the United States, and their second visit to Europe six months before the outbreak of war enabled many of their admirers to hear the band in the flesh. Many agree that by 1940 the orchestra had reached its artistic peak. The band’s first Carnegie Hall concert in January 1943 was followed by innumerable appearances at the world’s most famous theatres. Duke Ellington was fortunately able to continue his regular tours around the globe until a short time before his death on May 24, 1974 - one month after celebrating his 75th birthday. This volume of the complete recordings of Duke Ellington in chronological order includes the final orchestra and small-band sessions for Columbia. After one of Duke’s all-too-rare solos and a lone title by Bigard, the full orchestra plays two fine Billy Strayhorn arrangements. Not generally known for his vocal prowess, Strayhorn can be heard in support of Ivie Anderson on “Killin’ Myself”. Bigard returns with three more tracks before the Duke and Jimmy Blanton take over: these two duets, although less well known than the later ones for Victor, are outstanding examples of the mutual understanding between two fantastic artists. Twenty-one-year-old Blanton is best on “Blues”, a record many young bassists have studied carefully. The last date by the orchestra for Columbia produced four titles that had all been previously recorded by the band. This was Ben Webster’s first official date with the full outfit, but Ben had already made some records with Ellington in 1936 (see Classics 666). Ivie Anderson sings on three titles, but it is the instrumental version of “Sophisticated Lady” – with majestic solos by Arney, Hodges and Lawrence Brown – that stands out. Barney Bigard’s last date for Vocalion includes “Watch The Birdie”, not to be confused with the Raye de Paul composition of the same title, featured in the film “Hellzapoppin” and recorded, amongst others, by Gene Krupa. Cootie Williams’ rendition of Ellington’s incredibly beautiful “Black Butterfly”, composed in 1936, features the leader throughout – one of his most intimate and emotional performances. To be continued...

Anatol Schenker, September 1994.

CLASSICS 790

DISCOGRAPHY DUKE ELLINGTON 1939 - 1940

DUKE ELLINGTON: piano solo.

WM-1100-A Blues

New York, October 14, 1939.
Columbia rejected

BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Rex Stewart-c/Barney Bigard-cl/Harry Carney-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d.

WM-1105-A Early Mornin'

New York, October 16, 1939.
Vocalion 5422

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: Duke Ellington-p-a dir. Wallace Jones-Cootie Williams-t/Rex Stewart-c/Joe "Tricky Sam" Nanton-Lawrence Brown-tb/Juan Tizol-vtb/Barney Bigard-cl/Johnny Hodges-cl-ss-as/Harry Carney-cl-as-bar/Otto Hardwick-as-bsx/Fred Guy-g/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d/Ivie Anderson-v/Billy Strayhorn-v-a.

WM-1106-A Killin' Myself - v1A-BS/aBS

New York, October 16, 1939.
Columbia 35640

WM-1107-A Your Love Has Faded - v1A/aBS

Columbia 35640

WM-1108-A Country Gal

Columbia 35776

BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Rex Stewart-c/Juan Tizol-vtb/Barney Bigard-cl/Harry Carney-bar/Billy Strayhorn-p-a/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d.

WM-1117-A Minuet In Blues

New York, November 22, 1939.
Vocalion 5378

WM-1118-A Lost In Two Flats

Vocalion 5422

WM-1119-A Honey Hush

Okeh 5663

DUKE ELLINGTON - JIMMY BLANTON: piano and string bass duets.

WM-1120-A Blues

New York, November 22, 1939.

WM-1121-A Plucked Again

Columbia 35322

Columbia 35322

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: as for October 16; Ben Webster-ts added.

WM-1135-A Solitude - v1A

New York, February 14, 1940.

WM-1136-A Stormy Weather - v1A

Columbia 35427

WM-1137-A Mood Indigo - v1A

Columbia 35556

WM-1138-A Sophisticated Lady

Columbia 35427

Columbia 35556

BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Rex Stewart-c/Juan Tizol-vtb/Barney Bigard-cl/Harry Carney-bar/Billy Strayhorn-p-a/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d.

WM-1139-1 Pelican Drag

New York, February 14, 1940.

WM-1140-1 Tapioca

Epic LN-3237 (LP)

WM-1141-A Mardi Gras Madness

Epic LN-3237 (LP)

WM-1142-A Watch The Birdie

Vocalion 5595

Vocalion 5595

COOTIE WILLIAMS AND HIS RUG CUTTERS: Cootie Williams-t-v/Johnny Hodges-as/Barney Bigard-cl-ts/Harry Carney-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d. Billy Strayhorn-p replaces Ellington*.

WM-1143-A *Black Butterfly

New York, February 15, 1940.

WM-1144-A Dry Long So - vCW

Vocalion 5618

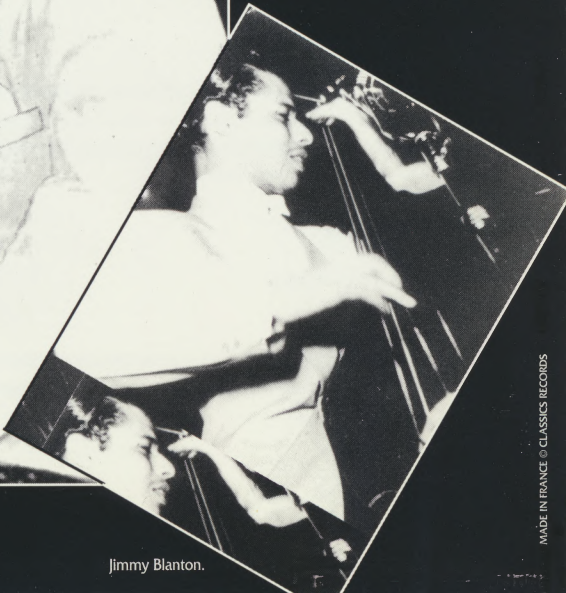
WM-1145-A Toasted Pickle

Vocalion 5690

WM-1146-A Give It Up

Okeh 6336

Vocalion 5690



Jimmy Blanton.

DUKE ELLINGTON
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
1939-1940

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CLASSICS 790

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